

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

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September 30, 2004

Dr. Michael A. Schroeder
P.O. Box 1077
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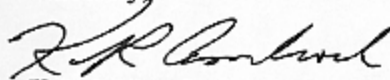
Dear Dr. Schroeder:

With the initial flurry of activity about completed from the annual business meeting in Sun Valley, it's time to move on to other important matters. In that regard, on behalf of all the western directors I am writing to thank you for your leadership and work as an author of the recently-completed status assessment for greater sage grouse. Those of us who have read the assessment recognize it provides a benchmark from which future management of sage grouse populations will be measured. The assessment also serves as an extremely valuable resource and reference document.

The Association recognizes that the timeframe for completion of this status assessment placed extreme pressure on the authors and required weeks of almost continuous work including evenings, weekends, and holidays. You are to be commended for your dedication, professionalism and hard work. Without your expertise, completion of this important work would have been difficult and the overall quality of the product would have been diminished. The Association greatly appreciates the manner in which you worked through the many issues related to production and publication of the sage grouse distribution map and manuscript. You can be justifiably proud of your accomplishments to the overall conservation of sage grouse.

We all look forward to working with you in the future on behalf of sage grouse and their habitats.

Sincerely,



Ken Ambrock
President

KA/LLK:cc

cc: Dr. Jeff Koenings, Director, Washing Department of Fish and Wildlife
Dwight Bunnell, National Sage Grouse Coordinator

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